

Season 15 - Program 7 - January 24, 1962

AN EVENING OF AMERICAN PROPAGANDA FILMS

BOYCOTT

(34 minutes)

Produced and distributed by Protestants and Other Americans United for Separation of Church and State.

The sponsor of this film is POAU (Protestants and Other Americans United for Separation of Church and State) an organization expressly created to counteract what it considers encroachments by the Catholic Church upon the principle of Church and State separation. BOYCOTT is one of a number of films produced for their educational program, 'based on a true-to-life series of events that happened in a New England state.'

THE MESSAGE FROM MISSISSIPPI

(27 minutes)

Produced and distributed by the Public Relations Department of the Mississippi State Sovereignty Commission.

"The Public Relations Department of the Mississippi State Sovereignty Commission, an agency created by the Mississippi Legislature, is coordinating a program which is ready to carry the Mississippi Message into every section of the nation. Our films and speakers want an opportunity to present to northern audiences the true story of how segregation works for the benefit of both races and how the white and colored people live in harmony, for mutual progress, under a segregated society."

Mississippi State Sovereignty Commission.

OPERATION ABOLITION

(42 minutes)

Produced by Washington Video Productions for the House Committee on Un-American Activities. Available from Cinema 16.

In the short space of one year, this film has become America's most famous and most hotly debated propaganda film. More than 1300 prints have been sold and are being shown widely in colleges, clubs, industrial plants and churches throughout the country. An endless number of newspaper features, editorials, sermons, pamphlets, recordings, picketlines have added to the undeniable dramatic impact of the film itself. The use of newsreel footage and sound lend it a semblance of reality and veracity which touch upon the very core of the "propaganda film" problem: the judicious "re-arranging" of "reality" by means of editing and narration. It is impossible to summarize the controversy or the factual objections that have been made against the film in a program note. Instead, we refer you to a 30-page booklet, the most exhaustive analysis of the film so far:

OPERATION ABOLITION
published by the National Council of Churches
on sale in the lobby for 50 cents

Those members wishing to hear the other side of the story are referred to THE COMMUNIST-LED RIOTS AGAINST THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON UN-AMERICAN ACTIVITIES IN SAN FRANCISCO (House Report No 2228) a U. S. Government Printing Office publication.

OPERATION ABOLITION is available for home or club RENTAL from Cinema 16 and is shipped with copies of the literature mentioned in this program note.

THE LANGUAGE OF FACES

(17 minutes)

A film by John Korty, narrated by Meredith Dallas, with music by Teiji Ito. Produced by the Peace Education Program of the American Friends Service Committee. Distributed by Contemporary Films

"This is a film about war and peace - here and now. It depends neither on newsreels of past wars nor fantasies of future ones. It is about a war which exists in the present tense, about bombs that are exploding in slow motion - in the turning of a million heads, in another million yawns at the headlines, in another million quiet nods to the mass production of mass destruction.

The picture is dark, but there is a crucial difference between darkness outside and darkness inside. If we can admit to the war within, we at least have a place to start. And if we are numb to the language of words, we can speak in "the language of faces." Beginnings are being made and this film shows one, not for the sake of strategy or propaganda, but for the sake of self-revelation. If the seeds of war exist in each man, so must the seeds of peace. The question is which we shall nurture." John Korty

MAYA DEREN

Maya Deren, leading spirit of the American avant-garde film movement and Executive Secretary of the Creative Film Foundation, died recently and unexpectedly.

Those who knew her, know that she is irreplaceable. Her passion, seriousness, honesty and devotion to the cause of film, coupled with rare creative talents, were unique in a field overrun by the meretricious.

The Directors of the Creative Film Foundation have decided not to hold the annual competition for the Creative Film Foundation Awards this year, and to instead transform the Award Presentation evening (scheduled for February 7th) into

A MEMORIAL EVENING FOR MAYA DEREN

A retrospective exhibition of some of Miss Deren's films.

This event will take place on Wednesday, February 7th, 7:15 and 9:30 PM at the Fashion Industries Auditorium. Your membership card will admit you.

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Wisconsin Center
for Film and Theater Research

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